

PRINCE GEORGE'S CHAPEL CEMETERY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of MAY 22, 1016

The meeting was called to order by President Melody Chandler at 1:00 p.m. at the Dagsboro Town Hall. Members present were Sandie Gerken, Meri Jo Montague, Gayle Chandler, Patti Adams, and Council Representative, Brian Baull.

Patti moved to approve the agenda for today's meeting. Jo seconded the motion and with all in approval, the agenda was approved.

A motion was made by Gayle to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2015 meeting. Following the second motion by Patti, all approved the minutes without amendment.

Brian Read the treasurer's report and the budget. A copy of those financial details is attached to these minutes. Gayle needed clarification of the \$942.00 donations. \$500 of such was donation from the town, the remainder \$442.00 was from private donations (Leitzel, Janet Hudson, Banks Properties). With motions from Sandie and Patti, all voted to approve the financial information.

There was no new outside correspondence for the committee. Various emails had been sent to members of committee to keep them advised on old and new business relative to this meeting.

There were no reports submitted from officers or representatives. A copy of the Administrator's Report submitted by Stacey Long is attached to hard copy of these minutes. Stacey reports that she has not had responses to her emails and voicemails regarding DE Preservation Grant. So it is assumed that we probably will not be getting this grant for this year. Melody did mention that Margaret Morris passed away and we needed to acknowledge her devotion and dedication to the town and the chapel/cemetery.

OLD BUSINESS:

FENCING: All fencing issues have been resolved to date. The split rail fences have been repositioned by Bob Flowers at a cost of \$244.95, \$75 less than the estimate.

HANDICAP RAMP AND SIGNAGE: We are still awaiting the installation of the handicap ramp and signs by the state. This has been delayed by rain.

RULES AND REGULATIONS have been amended, basically switching the order of regs #7,8,9 for clarity. There was discussion about changing the order of all the regulations to list them in order of importance. We tabled this item until the November meeting.

WEBSITE: Essentially no changes have been made to the website since Autumn, town clerk is out until September. Any suggestions about making changes for our committee are tabled until next meeting.

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE: The brick wall was repaired in December by Czapp Masonry at a cost of \$7200, which was paid for by the driver's insurance co. For clarification, it was noted that the brick wall does belong to the town, not the state per the survey. This could be a recurring problem until the intersection is reconfigured.

DDOC is cutting the grass at a cost of \$2550 for the season, which began April 1 and to be done on a weekly basis until Nov. 1, 2016. Monthly installment payments of \$425 will be paid until paid in full.

DAGWORTHY MONUMENT: The foundation of the monument is in need of repair. The Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs claims that they do not own the monument placed there by the state of DE since the Division was not created until 1909. Gayle did get all documents regarding the monument from the state archives. Sandie suggested that we write to the Secretary of State requesting the repairs needed, since this office is over the Division of H&C with CCs to our local legislators. Brian felt we should get an estimate from a mason (Czapp) to accompany such letter. Gayle made a motion that we follow through with the estimate and the letter. Sandie seconded and all approved. We will ask Stacey to follow through on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

WHARTON-SNYDER PLOTS: Four corner markers for the Snyder plot were put in the wrong place, essentially including 2 of the 4 burial sites in the WHARTON plot. This was brought to the town's attention when Stacey ordered 4 corner markers for the Wharton plot in March 2016. The maintenance department discovered that 2 graves beside Mrs. Wharton that were supposed to be vacant actually were occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Snyder. The error occurred in 1994 when the corner markers for the Snyder plot were incorrectly placed and Mr. Snyder was interred within the Wharton plot. Subsequently, Mrs. Snyder was interred there as well. As it stands there are two vacant graves in the 2 grave Snyder plot. The Wharton's daughter wants the Snyders reinterred in the correct places. Doug Melson advised that he was not responsible for the error as a town cemetery representative, Howard Gerken had marked the correct location in 1994. Mr. Gerken has never served in any capacity with the town cemetery and never gave any gravesite information. In

contact with Janine Wharton, Stacey proposed two options to Janine Wharton: to take possession of the two empty gravesites on opposite side of the Snyders' plot, leaving the Snyders in place OR to have Snyders reburied in correct places. The Town attorney will be contacted for advice. It appears to this committee that neither our committee nor the town is responsible for correcting this matter. It is between the plot owners and the funeral directors responsible for interring the Snyders. It was agreed that the incidents of being interred in the wrong plots could be avoided if the funeral directors followed the town's guidelines for contacting town hall BEFORE opening graves as we made clear in a letter last year. Melody will advise Stacey to continue with conversation with the Snyders, Whartons, Shorts Funeral Services and Melson Funeral Services regarding the problem and that the town is not liable for this problem. Gayle moved that we have a PDF made of the cemetery plot map and create a form that the funeral home would sign off on the gravesite identification before any grave is opened. Sandie seconded. The motion passed.

In addition, Melody requested a motion to create and enforce civil penalties for funeral homes who do not contact town hall prior to opening graves. Gayle moved that we investigate what other cemeteries/towns are doing about civil penalties and opening graves. Pattie seconded. All approved and the motion passed. This will be presented to Council.

KOLLOCK BENCH PLACEMENT: The Kollock family requested permission in December 2015 to place a bench on their plot. It was approved providing it did not encroach on other plots or walkway. This brought up the issue of addressing sizes of benches, statuary, etc. in the rules and regs. Gayle moved to discuss this in November. Jo seconded. All approved to table this issue until the November meeting.

STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CHAPEL/CEMETERY: Discussion centered on whether state was going to do a survey of the land around the chapel before placing the new ramp. No one has seen the blueprint or plans for the new ramp so there is concern that the eighteenth century appearance will be preserved.

With no other business for the good of the order, Patti moved to adjourn the meeting. With a second from Sandie and approval of all, the meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m. The date for the November meeting is to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandie Gerken

Recording Secretary